

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1215

By Keisling

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Dr. Eric Hasemeier upon his receipt of the 2018 Medical Director of the Year award.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of the members of this General Assembly to recognize those venerable medical professionals who dedicate their lives to serving their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Dr. Eric Hasemeier, a medical director of the highest caliber who has treated his staff and his patients and their families with the utmost professionalism and compassion during his long, well-respected career; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hasemeier was recently honored with the 2018 Medical Director of the Year award by the American Medical Directors Association – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, the only medical specialty society representing the community of over 50,000 medical directors, physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and other practitioners working in various post-acute and long-term care settings. Dr. Hasemeier is the first osteopathic physician to receive this prestigious award; and

WHEREAS, this recognition serves as the crowning achievement of a long, successful career of astute leadership, compassionate care, and passionate enthusiasm—the hallmark characteristics of an individual who has found his true calling and devoted himself to it entirely; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Eric Hasemeier's journey to his current post as medical director at Huntsville Manor was not a linear one; in fact, though he was always interested in medicine, his first career was in the field of engineering; and

WHEREAS, as an industrial engineer, he helped hospital facilities increase efficiency; during this time, he had the opportunity to become a hospital administrator, a position he eagerly accepted and one he successfully filled for nine years, until, with his wife's encouragement, he decided to fulfill his dream of becoming a physician; and

WHEREAS, desiring to obtain employment in an underserved community, Dr. Eric Hasemeier first practiced medicine in a West Virginia paper mill town with a population of around 3,000 and was the first town doctor the community had ever had; after a brief stint as associate dean of a medical school, he and his family moved to Florida, where he opened a private practice; and

WHEREAS, after two consecutive hurricanes (Ivan in 2004 and Dennis in 2005) devastated the Hasemeier family's home, they moved to Tennessee, where he set up private practice once more; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hasemeier quickly became involved in nursing home care, and soon, he made the decision to phase out office-based care and focus exclusively on the nursing home setting; and

WHEREAS, having served as medical director for eight long-term care facilities in Tennessee, Dr. Eric Hasemeier has helped more than one facility become deficiency-free, with his extensive knowledge of survey regulations and his commitment to establishing positive relationships with the surveyors in this State, who know him as a source of honest, accurate information; and

WHEREAS, as a former engineer, Dr. Hasemeier is a natural at addressing quality issues and improving processes. The medical checklist he designed for urinalysis (UA) has helped nurses determine when the task is appropriate, resulting in the reduction of unnecessary UAs and Clostridium difficile infections, as well as the reduction of unnecessary use of antibiotics by fifty percent; he also established gradual dose-reduction efforts for antipsychotics and anxiolytics that have reduced the percentage of patients using these drugs from more than fifty percent to less than ten percent; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Eric Hasemeier also diligently seeks opportunities to engage in community outreach, often giving talks about topics such as Alzheimer's disease, and he takes time to speak one-on-one with residents' family members to enable them to make educated decisions; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hasemeier has devoted his career to compassionate, capable service, and it is fitting that he be honored; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Dr. Eric Hasemeier upon his receipt of the 2018 Medical Director of the Year award from the American Medical Directors Association – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine and extend to him our best wishes for much success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.